

ANN ELIZABETH BABYLON HOUSE

123 EAST MAIN STREET

Westminster's "Brownstone Era" was fairly short-lived; of the two buildings it produced, this, no. 123 East Main Street, is probably the more advanced essay in the style. It fronts the north side of Main Street (Md. Route 32) across the street from the beginning of Westminster Avenue. The 3-bay, 3-story building has some of the City's only rustication; other rarities include segmental arched windows and broad sandstone steps. The thick, rusticated, stone sills are also striking. The building has been severely altered since it was built around 1870 - the most recent alterations have been made to adapt the building into law offices. Nevertheless, the original intended air of impregnability implied by the rustication has been retained.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0703864511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Anne Elizabeth Babylon House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

123 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

— YES UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William B. Dulany

Telephone #: 848-1363

STREET & NUMBER

127 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 309

Folio #: 363

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Westminster's "Brownstone Era" was fairly short lived, of the two buildings it produced, this, no. 123 East Main Street, is probably the more advanced essay in the style. It fronts the north side of Main Street (Md. Route 32) across the street from the beginning (or end) of Westminster Avenue.

Of the building's four sides, the south front, the only one that retains any of its original character (the east and west facades are now a party wall, the north has been severely remodelled within the last five years as the building was joined with no. 127, q.v.), presents two rather definite sections - a western 2-bay flat stretcher bond brick wall, and an eastern bowed wall; both are 3 stories tall, and both, generally, treat their component parts in a similar way. The ground floor of each section has some of the City's only rustication. Among these rock-faced stones, the western section has 2 bays; a double-hung one-over-one paned segmental arched window to the west, with a double door to the east. The recessed door sits above four broad sandstone steps and below a single-light transom. Each of the double doors is identical to the other, having a small, upwardly placed, single, glass pane, with six small panels below and two above. Hardware is probably original. The door (with its enframent) is painted a seal brown which works nicely with the color of the stone. Above these openings, and vertically aligned with them, are two windows each on the second and third floors. These four windows are identical to each other; each has two 1/1 windows divided by a wide wooden jamb. Each double window is united by a thick rusticated stone sill, and by a single segmental arch, above which is an arch (segmental, of course) composed of 3 rows of stretcher bricks.

The bowed section has 3 windows on each floor; windows are treated similarly to those in the other section, except that those on the second and third floors have single not double windows.

Both sections are united by a simple 3 part modillion cornice, supported by modest scroll brackets, below the buildings flat roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house built for Anne Elizabeth Babylon, member of a locally important Mid-Victorian merchant family, is nearly unique in the City, in that it attempted to follow national, not regional, tastes. Building in Westminster plodded along during the entire 19th century following styles and precedents set before the establishment of Carroll County. As a result, the number of buildings, especially houses, that were not built as units with two perpendicular gable sections, (with the Main Street section's having a flat facade of 3 or 5 bays) is not much more than a dozen and a half. These "aberrations" are sometimes Second Empire (230 East Main), sometimes Italianate ("Terrace Hill"), once, bravely, Beaux-Arts (Paul Reese's bank at 295 East Main), and, here, a fling at a bow front brownstone. The heavy, rusticated ground floor, the firm second and third story sills, and the fine segmentally arched windows create a building that, while it would be perfectly at home in nearly any other (larger) City, must have always been about ill-at-ease here, or perhaps not. Perhaps the power of its owners explains and enables the "damn the torpedoes" attitude. Certainly, all the buildings mentioned above as freaks were created by individuals of sufficient local standing such as to be "exempt" from local standards. The Babylons erected a superbly idiosyncratic store at about this time; perhaps this house could be explained as yet another attempt of a powerful provincial family to go beyond their small pond and join the haut monde.

Babylon bought the lot from John Smith on September 26, 1867 for \$800 (Carroll County Deed Book 34, Page 536); here executor, Charles Wantz, sold it for \$4200 on May 6, 1898 to George W. Albaugh (87/131), a powerful realtor/landlord who owned at one time over 3 dozen parcels in the City. He, under various names, continued to own it until August 31, 1956 when his executor sold it to William W. Dulany (309/363), who sold it to William B. Dulany the same day (309/363). Dulany is senior partner in one of the City's foremost law firms, thus continuing the building's ownership by the powerful, and, thereby, the impregnability implied by the rustication.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot 32 of the town of "New London", later incorporated into Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

December, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



~~377, 378~~
CARR ~~107, 109~~ 386

123-127 E. Main St.

Westminster

S. Jacade

c. week 12/26

50 9/10



CARR 386

123 E. Main St.

S. Jacinto

C. W. Webb

12/76

507 = (B-8)